



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
SERGIO G. DIAZ
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUSPECT IN 2018 SEXUAL ASSAULT ARRESTED

RIVERSIDE, CA – In September of 2018, a violent sexual assault was reported to the Riverside Police Department that occurred in the La Sierra neighborhood of Riverside. Detectives from the Sexual Assault – Child Abuse Unit (SACA) began the investigation and were recently able to identify the suspect. An arrest warrant for the allegations of rape, kidnapping, and assault was obtained, but it was discovered the suspect also had an outstanding arrest warrant for violation of Post-Release Community Supervision.

SACA detectives, with the assistance from the Robbery - Homicide Unit, Gang Unit, Narcotics Unit, Vice Unit, Neighborhood Policing Center detectives, Problem-Oriented Policing officers, West Post-Release and Accountability Team, and the Intelligence Unit, conducted a search for the suspect and he was eventually located in the city of Yucaipa. Earlier today, the Riverside Police Department's METRO (SWAT) Team, utilizing their resources and partnership with the United States Marshals Service taskforce, made entry into a residence where the suspect was believed to be hiding and safely took him into custody.



Carlos Romero, a 31-year-old transient of Riverside, will be booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for the outstanding arrest warrants. *(Booking photo is not available at this time)*

Detectives are looking into whether this suspect may have been involved in other similar crimes that occurred in Riverside and neighboring jurisdictions, including a recent carjacking from January 31, 2019, in the La Sierra neighborhood.

This investigation is still ongoing and there are no other details available at this time. Anyone with information is asked to contact Robbery – Homicide Detective Karla Beler at (951) 353-7138 or kbeler@riversideca.gov, SACA Detective Stacie Ontko at (951) 353-7121 or sontko@riversideca.gov, or SACA Detective Brandi Merrill at (951) 353-7120 or bmerrill@riversideca.gov. Those wishing to remain anonymous can email rpdtips@riversideca.gov or utilize the Riverside Police Department's mobile app "Submit a Tip" feature while referencing incident number P18165314.

P18165314